

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #16
July 17, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE:

- The total count of cases of H5N1 influenza confirmed by the World Health Organization is 230 (up by 1 from last week), including 132 deaths. The only activity reported this week was from Indonesia, which is now up to 53 cases and 41 deaths. The most recent case occurred in a 3-year old girl - she had been in contact with chickens in the neighborhood which had died recently (the chickens were tested and found to be positive for H5N1 influenza). An investigation has found no further cases of influenza-like illness in contacts of the case.
- The Group of Eight (G8) summit in St. Petersburg, Russia from July 15-17, 2006, includes issues related to infectious disease control. This will include avian influenza, and efforts to detect and prevent a pandemic. This event may help to provide additional political commitment and crucial investment into global preparedness.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- Deputy Commissioner, EP&R and Fairfax Health Director participated on a panel to discuss planning for a possible pandemic of influenza at the 2006 Excellence in Government Conference in Washington DC.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator will participate in a Federal Reserve Bank, system-wide tabletop exercise at the Richmond Fed.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator met with a representative of National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGIA) together with representatives from the office of Commonwealth Preparedness, VITA and VDEM. NGIA is working on a contract with DHS and wants to determine what data points the Public Health / Healthcare communities would want to see on a GIS Database in preparation (and response) to PanFlu.
- State Emergency Planning Coordinator will be meeting with USNORTHCOM reps at Ft Monroe. They are standing up a DoD PanFlu Task Force
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Far SW Region	July 20
Loudoun	August 10
Near SW Region	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
Middle Peninsula	August 1
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Northern Region**

- National Capitol Region (NCR) will conduct a PanFlu Tabletop Exercise (TTX) on July 19, a Role Playing table top; a series of simulations designed to strain and test the resilience of NCR communities during pandemic conditions.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Chesterfield**

- The first meeting of the Colonial Heights Advisory Committee was held at the Colonial Heights library.
- Health Educators presented and gave PanFlu information out at the Defense Supply Center in Richmond.
- Health Educators have scheduled 17 PanFlu presentations for July and August.
- Letters were mailed to members of the Chesterfield Advisory Committee scheduling the next meeting.
- Meeting of the Pandemic Work Group was held.
- Information packets have been designed and are being assembled to distribute to local physicians.

- **Crater**

- District held the initial meeting for the District Pandemic Influenza Coordinating Committee. The meeting was held on Fort Lee and focused on enlisting the support of local governments and other community representatives within the district to form local planning committees. The local committees would then designate representatives to serve on the District Coordinating Committee. Speakers included Sussex County Public Safety Coordinator and Fort Lee Operations Chief. Each spoke about pandemic flu planning efforts in their respective communities and reinforced the need to begin planning with other communities. In addition, the Crater Health District's PIO spoke about the importance of communicating a unified message during emergencies. The ideas were well received and have generated ongoing discussions. Follow up meetings will focus on specific planning issues. Representatives from local government administration, social services departments, hospitals, an umbrella church organization, the Crater Planning District, local school districts, Fire/EMS, and Central State attended.
- Epidemiologist spoke to the Petersburg Rotary club. The presentation included information on the current status of the Avian Flu/pandemic flu and gave a history of pandemics that have affected our country.

- **Cumberland Plateau**

- Twenty six District employees participated in the southwest region's pandemic influenza tabletop exercise. Primary Epi Response Teams in each county office and the Executive Epi Response Team participated, and back up staff participated when possible. The number of staff participating in each county was: 5 in Buchanan Co., 8 in Dickenson Co., 8 in Russell Co., and 5 in Tazewell Co.
- Planner communicates daily with local counterparts in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia to plan the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit.
- Director, Epidemiologist, and Planner participated in the Mountain Empire Public Health Emergency Coordination Council Pandemic Influenza Preparedness

- Committee teleconference. Participants called in from local public health agencies representing Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky Health Departments.
- Planner distributed 16 Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit invitations to the Russell County and Buchanan County local district government officials, state agencies, businesses, schools, courts, medical providers, first responders, veterinarians, faith-based organizations, community service boards, and law enforcement.
 - **Henrico**
 - Planner participated in After Action Review of Richmond Urban Area Security Initiative (RUASI) exercise that took place on June 28, 2006
 - Director and Planner participated in the Richmond Metropolitan Response System (MMRS) monthly meeting
 - Planner and Director conducted training for Henrico Medical Reserve Corps members
 - Director and Planner conducted the initial meeting of the Henrico County ESF-8 (Health and Medical) Planning Group, which included representatives from 1st responders, County Manager's office, hospitals, home healthcare, pharmacies, and outpatient providers. The group agreed that this entity will become the county's pandemic influenza planning group and can adapt the structure and membership as needed to plan for other potential large scale health emergencies.
 - **Lenowisco**
 - Pandemic Flu presentation to 25 staff at Flatwoods Job Corps in Coeburn, VA..
 - Pandemic Flu presentation to Mountain Empire Community College President's Office and key staff in Big Stone Gap.
 - Pandemic Flu Tabletop Exercise – Wise Health Department Had representatives from emergency management, 911 center, UVA at Wise, Dept. of Social Services, Sheriff's Office, Health Department, Independent Home Health and Hospitals participating in tabletop drill and Hotwash.
 - Received several calls from individuals registering for the Southwest Virginia Regional Pandemic Flu Summit.
 - **Loudoun**
 - Conducted a status review session with Leesburg Chief of Police and Town Manager regarding health department input for their new pandemic flu plan.
 - Public schools are preparing to present their plan at the next task force meeting.
 - Confirmed with managers of facilities where seminars and summit will be held the seating, audio/visual, and hearing-impaired arrangements.
 - Coordinated with State Public Health Veterinarian on her attendance and presentation for the Veterinarian Pandemic Flu seminar.
 - Issued written invitation and verbally coordinated with local Virginia State Defense Force commander to encourage VADF participation in First Responder seminars.
 - Invited private schools (pre-school to post-secondary) to both the medical and business seminars; some were church-affiliated and one was an Islamic school.
 - Invited County police, fire, and EMS (career and volunteer) organizations to First Responder seminars.
 - Invited local Red Cross and Civil Air Patrol members to First Responder seminars.
 - Invited several local CERT and Police Citizen Support Teams to First Responder seminars.
 - Confirmed attendance of two sign language interpreters for hearing-impaired attendees at the August 10 Public PanFlu Summit.

- Continued coordination with Loudoun County Department of Economic Development on advertising for the two upcoming Business seminars.
- Conducted the first 2.5 hour Medical PanFlu seminar for 54 attendees. A wide variety of medical professions including hospital physicians and nurses, morticians, office-based physicians and staff, long-term care personnel, mental health providers, private school health staff, occupational health consultants, pharmacists, faith-based health personnel, and MRC volunteers. Received significant feedback which will be of use in refining the Loudoun County pandemic flu plan.
- Conducted a 2.5 hour Veterinary PanFlu seminar attended by 10 veterinary practices, animal control and shelter staff, and students. The state veterinarian and epidemiologist presented avian flu in the animal population as an addition to the regular PanFlu presentation. Feedback was very positive and identified issues with pet and farm animal care services. They will be following-up by sponsoring another vet specific seminar to reach a larger audience later this summer.
- Received request and scheduled an additional PanFlu presentation in September for Loudoun Nursing Rehabilitation Center, who will coordinate and invite other long term care and assisted living facility staffs.
- Received request for a presentation for the staff of Graydon manor, a mental health facility, which will coordinate with other similar facilities for additional PanFlu training.

Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):

- Mid-Term Planning Conference and Monthly Planning Team Meeting was conducted.
- Collaborated with the Prince William Health District CodeFlu 06 POC to obtain and review an initial list exercise participants.
- The Staging Site Core Group met to update potential input for the POD Plan and the Exercise Plan.
- The Evaluation Core Group met to discuss potential staging site evaluation input for the exercise evaluation.

Commonwealth PanFlu Exercise ("Fowl Play"):

- Collaborated with pertinent law enforcement personnel (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Special Operations) and the Loudoun County Emergency Management Coordinator to discuss Loudoun's SNS pick up plans at the NoVA warehouse.
- Front page newspaper article published in Loudoun Times Mirror featuring pandemic flu planning, identifying collaborating partners, some resident's solutions, and the full schedule of summer PanFlu seminars.
- Leesburg Today published an article with the full schedule of PanFlu seminars.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - Director participated in "Disaster Planning" meeting with Winchester Medical Center key personnel, devoted entirely to planning for PanFlu. The hospital has changed its surge plan, including more sequential sites, and is focusing on PPE. Shared info on regional industrial hygienist availability for a presentation and to consult.
 - Director met with new School Superintendent and her assistant in response to her request for assistance with pandemic flu preparation. She has been in her new position less than one week. Focused on health department staff's availability, will seek out any good model plans, and may collaborate on content of principals' letters to parents in August to include flu info.
 - Director met with regional planner. He will be assisting with preparing for the Avian Influenza Conference and will stay over to help the day of the event.

- Last week, District arranged with regional industrial hygienist to include a small "bonus" preview presentation on respiratory protection for influenza at the July 28 conference and scheduled a stand-alone presentation in Middletown on August 3.
- District held a meeting in Woodstock of its Pandemic Influenza Advisory Committee to brainstorm community needs, ideas, update group on grant activities.
- Director had a short informal meeting with Shenandoah County Administrator in response to a prior request for an update on flu preparation. He was asking as VACO has requested information on county preparedness activities.
- **Penninsula**
 - Planner and MRC coordinator provided a training session "Introduction to Pandemic Influenza" for 51 members of the Peninsula MRC.
 - Director presented and answered questions on pandemic influenza planning and preparedness to 40 members of the Warwick Rotary Club in Newport News.
 - Planner and MRC coordinator provided presentations on pandemic influenza planning and preparedness and the Peninsula MRC for 12 members of the southeastern chapter of American Society for Training and Development.
 - The district has distributed over 4,000 of copies of the tri-fold "Seasonal Flu, Pandemic Flu, and Bird Flu: What you need to know" (Channing Bete—available in English and Spanish). The flyers have been well-received and we have additional requests from local government departments, school systems and businesses so that they can distribute to their employees and customers.
- **Piedmont**
 - Nurse practitioner presented pandemic influenza presentation to 2 childcare centers in Buckingham County.
 - District Planner met with Buckingham County Emergency Managers and Central Virginia Health Services to discuss PanFlu exercise.
- **Prince William**
 - Providing personal preparedness information for agencies that care for mental health and disabled clients.
 - Letter sent out to the funeral directors in the county with some questions regarding mass fatality issues. Later this month the funeral directors will be invited to a meeting so we can discuss issues associated with mass fatality.
 - District PanFlu meeting to make sure all government COOP plans are complete and the process of HR issues are in the works such as cross training staff, telecommuting, and sick leave issues.
 - Discussions with the local legal community to see if they want to participate in the October state exercise using their new video equipment.
 - Annual mask fittings for health district staff are underway.
 - Personal preparedness information has been translated into Spanish and will be distributed to our clinic clients at their OB and family planning appointments.
 - In conjunction with Voluntary Action Committee a survey will be sent to nursing homes to see how prepared they are for an emergency including evaluation planning, as well as how knowledgeable their staffs are.
 - Personal preparedness pamphlets for our employees have been developed, printed and distributed.
 - Information in the county employee newsletter on pandemic flu and all-hazard planning that the health district wrote has been printed and sent out to all county employees.

- **Southside**

- Health Director, Nurse Manager, Epidemiologist, Planner and County PH nurse participated in the Brunswick County Preparedness Tabletop Exercise. SHD presented a short pandemic awareness talk with the VDH video. A new LEPC was formed with pandemic flu as a top agenda item.
- Planner attended the third Halifax Regional Hospital Pandemic Flu Task Force, an internal committee to plan for a flu pandemic.
- Epi will meet with the Brunswick County school nurses to discuss pandemic flu surveillance, planning and volunteer possibilities, and setting a date to address the school teachers and staff in August.
- District staff will make a pandemic flu presentation to about 150 members of the Bannister Baptist Church Association at their annual conference.
- Planner contacted the circuit court clerks and Commonwealth Attorneys for a good date to present pandemic flu video and Isolation and Quarantine information.
- Pandemic Flu Trainer and Administrative Assistant gave a pan flu presentation to the local Social Security Administration staff.
- Pan Flu trainer will present video and information to American Business Women's Association, Tri-County Chapter on July 24th.
- District is making contacts with civic groups to schedule pandemic Flu presentations.
- Continue work to complete a contact database of all partner groups and agencies.